

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3. This sheet replaces the original sheet. In Fig. 3, previously omitted element 214' has been added.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet
 Annotated Sheet showing Changes

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to clarify the subject matters thereof. New claims 7 and 8 have been added.

In Fig. 3, previously omitted element 214' has been added, which is fully supported by the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 2 of the original Specification.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

Rejection of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) As Being Unpatentable Over Tanaka et al. (US 6,256,281) In View of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art Is Respectfully Traversed

Applicant respectfully submits that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Tanaka with prior art acknowledged heretofore by Applicant. More specifically, although Applicant has admitted that use of a lens to focus light toward the medium is prior art, this is contrary to the teaching of Tanaka. Tanaka teaches away from the use of a lens for the purpose disclosed by Applicant and clearly teaches away from the use of a lens in the specific manner recited in claim 1 as amended. Instead, Tanaka teaches that the use of a lens makes it difficult to optimize the shape of the reference beam with respect to a recording spot (Col. 2, lines 47-50).

In addition, in Col. 3, lines 36-41, Tanaka discloses "A main object of the invention is to provide a volume holographic memory-based optical information-recording/reproducing apparatus which is capable of shaping an interference area for a reference beam and a signal beam within a recording medium more easily than by waveform shaping using a lens." In claim 1 of the subject application, the system requires the use of a lens for refracting the reduced reference beam into a storage medium. This is not the taught in the prior art disclosed by Applicant and is contrary to the teaching of Tanaka. Accordingly, there is no basis to suggest that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Tanaka with the prior art as suggested in the official action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claim 1 is allowable over the references cited.

Rejection Of Claims 2-6 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) As Being Unpatentable Over Tanaka et al. (US 6,256,281) In View Of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, And Further In View Of Davis (US 6,486,982) Is Respectfully Traversed

Claims 2-6 are dependent claims which are believed to be allowable for the same reasons indicated above with respect to amended claim 1. Moreover, the additional features recited therein are not taught in Davis. Claim 8 is a new dependent claim directed to a control method for storing holographic digital data in the volume digital data system of claim 1. Accordingly, it is believed to be patentable for the same reasons as indicated above.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action. For the reasons discussed above, applicant now respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn; and that claims 1-8 be allowed in their present form.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims an/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case be passed to issue.

Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted
For applicant,

By: 

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 17, 2004.

Audrey de Souza (Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)


 (Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

FIG. 3

2

